

FORT MCCOY, BUILDING T-635 (MESS HALL)
(Camp McCoy, Building T-635 (Mess Hall))

Fort McCoy
Sparta vicinity
Monroe County
Wisconsin

HABS NO. WI-308-C

HABS
WIS,
41-SPAR.V,
1-C-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT McCoy, BUILDING T-635 (MESS HALL)

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Location: Approximately 200' northeast of East 12 Avenue and 210 feet northwest of East N Street, in Block 6 of the cantonment plan of the main post at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.¹

Present Owner: Department of the Army

Original Use: Mess hall for 152 men.

Present Use: Now vacant.

Significance: Building T-635 is of interest historically as a nearly unaltered example of a mess hall at Camp McCoy. One of 172 such buildings erected at the cantonment, the 635 hall illustrates the setting in which enlisted men ate their meals and food was prepared, served, and stored.

Architecturally, Building T-635 depicts one of five variations available in the 800 Series of standard plans for mess halls. The designs could be expanded or contracted depending on the size of the units using the halls.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Standard War Department drawings prepared for the construction of 152-Man mess halls such as Building T-635 are dated January 5, 1942. Construction of Building T-635 began probably in the late summer of 1942 and was completed on November 27.²
2. Architect: George E. Bergstrom, Chief of the Architectural Unit in the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps, supervised the 1941 revision of the 700 Series of standard drawings that produced the 800 Series of plans. Bergstrom's draftsmen re-worked Plan 700-1127 and emerged with standard Plan 800-849 for a 172-man mess hall in May 1941. After the Corps of Engineers assumed responsibility for cantonment construction in December 1941, a new revision of the mess hall drawings was ordered by Col. James H. Strattan, Chief of the Corps Engineering Branch. Plans 800-805, 806, and 807 were prepared by draftsman W. M. Smith, under the supervision of the head of the Architectural Unit, W. J. New. When a few more 152-man mess halls

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were needed at Camp McCoy in the summer of 1942, the January plans were used to construct the additional halls.³

At Camp McCoy, Area Engineer Everett C. Hayden approved the minor changes that were made in the standard drawings before construction began.⁴

3. Original and subsequent owners: The site for the expanded Camp McCoy military reservation was condemned and purchased by the War Department in the spring of 1942.⁵ The owner from 1942 to 1947 was the War Department. Since 1947, the U. S. Department of the Army, the successor to the War Department, has held title.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Building 1129 was part of construction area F, which was built by the St. Paul, Minnesota, firm of Madsen, Schumacher, Watson and Associates. Bids for construction of the cantonment were advertised in February 1942 and contracts were awarded in late March. The contracts for the seven principal construction areas were fixed-price in nature. The War Department purchased the lumber used in Building T-635 and the rest of the cantonment at auctions held in the Upper Midwest region during the spring of 1942. Other materials used in construction--concrete, cement-asbestos siding, wall board, furnace and ductwork, plumbing and electrical fixtures, etc.--were apparently provided by subcontractors from the Wisconsin area.⁶
5. Original plans and construction: The interior and exterior of Building 801 have been changed very little. Record copies of the three basic standard War Department drawings used to construct the four 152-Man mess halls of the Building T-635 plan type have been preserved by the Directorate of Engineering at Fort McCoy and are currently kept in "As Built" envelope 72 in Building 2111. The original Vandyke master copies of the three basic plans and ten of the twelve general standard plans⁷ used to construct all cantonment mess halls are kept in the 800 Series map files of the "Meatlocker" storage room in Building 2145. Some of the Vandyke plans are also record drawings.

None of the construction photographs taken by the Army Signal Corps of mess halls at Camp McCoy could be found at Fort McCoy. Views of the completed exterior and interior of a sample hall were reproduced in the Sparta newspapers in August 1942.

The original cost of construction for Building T-635 was \$15,034.⁸

6. Alterations and additions: On the exterior, the grayish-white cement asbestos siding has been replaced in a few spots on all elevations with either white or gray-striped cement pieces of the same size as the originals. A post-war aluminum shaft for ventilation, possibly for a new hot water heater, has been installed on the lower southeast slope of the kitchen roof. Also, the original door at the southwest

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appears to have been replaced since World War II, and the entry lights that initially hung from the two gables of the building have been removed.

Inside, linoleum tiles with a green and cream pattern were laid over the original softwood floor of the dining room in 1958.⁹ When field notes and photographs were taken in September 1988, the 1942 sinks, preparation table, and plumbing were in a dismantled condition and appeared ready to be removed from the building.

B. Historical Context:

The construction of Building T-635 was part of a massive, nation-wide mobilization program designed to build cantonments to house and train the expanded World War II Army. The 800 series, and the 700 series that preceded it, was a comprehensive set of drawings which could be used interchangeably in creating the various building types. Through the construction of temporary wood-frame buildings such as Building T-635, the 1939 housing capacity of 200,00 was increased to 6,000,000 by the close of the mobilization program in the fall of 1944. In addition, war mobilization buildings are significant for their construction and technological innovation. Techniques such as the standardization of plans, prefabrication of units, and assembly-line approach to construction were largely developed in the construction of these mobilization cantonments.

Building T-635 was one of 172 mess halls erected in the troop housing area of "New" Camp McCoy, one of approximately fifteen mobilization cantonments built by the War Department between the entrance of the United States in World War II late in 1941 and early 1943. The 1941-43 cantonments were constructed to house and serve as bases for training approximately 525,000 men drafted for Army service after the declaration of war.¹⁰

Two newly organized Army divisions occupied Camp McCoy during their training. The Second Army Division arrived at the cantonment soon after completion of construction, in the fall of 1942, and remained for a year, until November 1943, leaving for action in the Italian campaign. The 76th Division then took over the camp for a year, departing for service in the liberation of Western Europe in December 1944. In 1944, Camp McCoy also became a personnel center for the Army, receiving and redirecting soldiers for new assignments. The following year, the personnel center assumed the role of discharging veterans as the war came to a close. The personnel center closed in May 1946, and most other functions at the camp halted a year later.¹¹

After three years of relative inactivity, Camp McCoy was reactivated by the Defense Department for training of regular, reserve, and National Guard units in the Fifth Army area for service in the Korean War. A reassignment and separation center was also opened at the camp during the conflict. Since 1953, the camp has become a center for training reserve units of the Army and National Guard regiments of the Midwest region.¹²

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When fully occupied during World War II, the cantonment area of Camp McCoy housed approximately 35,000 people. The camp was laid out in twenty-eight blocks, twenty of which housed troops and officers. Each block was occupied by six to ten companies. Block 6 contained nine companies, each of which lived in two to three, 74-man barracks and occupied one company storehouse, administration, and recreation building. Building T-635 was one of eight mess halls constructed in Block 6 and may have served a single, 152-man company. Four larger mess halls at the center of N Street (Plan No. 6150-3-GL) served 228 men each.

The interior of Building 635 depicts the activities carried on in all 172 mess halls at Camp McCoy: a dining room in one half, in which the troops sat at tables, and a kitchen and store room in the other half, where food was prepared, served, and stored.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The design of Building T-635 illustrates the flexibility of standard plans in meeting the needs of the Army units assigned to the mobilization cantonments. The 1941 mess hall drawings and the January 1942 revised drawings both set forth a basic plan that could be expanded or contracted to fit the numbers of men in the units that used each hall. Five sub-types of the mess-hall plans were used at Camp McCoy: 228-man, 172-man, 152-man, and 112-man. The floor plans could be adjusted to meet the capacity desired by eliminating or adding bays.¹³

Most of the 120 mess halls erected at Camp McCoy were of the largest type, accommodating 228 men. Only Building T-635 and three others were constructed using the January 1942 version of the 152-man plan.¹⁴ Nevertheless, differences between the five versions are minor, the T-635 hall is significant as one of the least altered of any of the mess buildings.

2. Condition of fabric: The general condition of Building T-635 is good. Minor deterioration is obvious in several areas of the exterior. A few pieces of original siding have fallen off on the southwest and southeast walls, and paint is peeling on the foundation skirting, window and door surrounds and frames and along the eaves. On the southeast side, the fascia boards are badly weathered. In the interior, paint is peeling in the kitchen, on the walls and ceiling. Otherwise, no serious deterioration is noticeable.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Building T-635 is rectangular in shape and is 25'-0" wide and 100'-0" long. The building is one story, and the height from grade to the roof ridge is approximately 15'.

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There are ten bays (windows and doorways) at the northwest side and eight at the southeast wall; in the southwest end are two bays, and in the northeast, three. There are five bays corresponding to the dining room in the two long elevations, while the kitchen is lit by four bays on the northwest side, where a "scullery sink" stood, and by two bays on the opposite side, where the kitchen range was located. Symmetry was not a concern in the design, which was governed by the requirements of the interior plan.

2. Foundations: The foundation of Building T-635, and the three other 152-man mess halls constructed in the fall of 1942, consists of four longitudinal rows of poured concrete piers, each 1'-0" square, resting on 2'-0" x 1'-0" footings sunk 2'-0". The piers support longitudinal wooden girders, each measuring 6" x 10". The piers are spaced apart 10'-0" on center. There is no cellar excavation.

The crawl space below the mess hall is screened by wooden skirting composed vertical boards measuring 2'-0" x 7-1/2". Each board is affixed to the foundation girders and sills inserted into slots in the exterior piers. There are four rectangular access openings in the skirting on the northwest wall, three on the southeast wall, and two on the northeast.

3. Walls: The exterior walls of Building T-635 consist of three layers: (a) wooden sheathing,¹⁵ (b) black construction paper, which acts as a vapor barrier, and (c) siding composed of cement asbestos pieces measuring 11" x 24", the standard size used throughout the cantonment.¹⁶
4. Structural system, framing: Building T-635 and the other one-story buildings erected from the 800 Series standard plans are of balloon construction. The frame of the exterior walls rests on 8" x 10" wooden girders, each composed of four 2" x 10" boards. The girders are supported by the exterior concrete piers. The joists of the mess hall floor are borne by the two interior longitudinal girders and rows of piers.

The exterior wall structure is composed of four corner posts and 2" x 4" studs placed 2'-0" apart on center. Girts of the same size stabilize the studs horizontally. The studs support the plates in all four elevations, and the plates in turn bear the joists and rafters of the roof structure. Eight diagonal braces running between the foundation girder and the roof plate reinforce the exterior walls.

The joist structure of Building T-635 varies below each of the three rooms in the mess hall. Beneath the dining room, with its softwood floor, 6" x 10" longitudinal girders composed of three boards support 2" x 10" joists, spaced 2'-0" on center. Double joists bear the two concrete stove platforms and the partition wall between the dining room and kitchen. Below the kitchen, with its concrete floor, are 8" x 10" girders bearing joists that are spaced 1'-0" on center. Girders measuring

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10" x 10" support the concrete storeroom floor, on which rests a heavy cooler and refrigerator.

There are no posts above the two rows of interior girders, the roof trusses being clear-span. The interior partitions between the dining room and kitchen and between the kitchen and storeroom contain the stud and girt structure of the exterior walls and are load-bearing, supported by double joists. Bridging boards measuring 3" x 10" run longitudinally between the joists for extra reinforcement.

The roof structure is identical to that used in other one-story buildings in the 800 Series, such as the company storehouse and recreation buildings. The rafters are each supported by a modified king-post truss, consisting of a standard size, a central board functioning as a king-post, a tie-beam running between the east and west plates, and braces running between the tie-beam and rafters. Along the longitudinal axis, diagonal braces reinforce the king-posts and a north-south horizontal beam running between the tie-beams. Knee braces running from the walls below the attic to the roof rafters afford additional support. There are no purlins.¹⁷

5. Porches, stoops: The record drawing versions of standard Plans 800-805 and 806 show wooden stairs and porches at each of the four entries on the exterior of the five types of mess halls.¹⁸ Nevertheless, at Building T-635 and at every other building with exterior stairways in the cantonment area, there are instead poured concrete stoops with cast-iron rails. It seems likely, given the universal presence of the concrete stoop on all building types, that the more permanent (and less scarce) material was substituted for wood by the Area Engineer, Lt. Col. E. C. Hayden.

The concrete stoops for each entry are wider than those for the 74-man barracks and the company storehouse-administration-and-recreation buildings, reflecting the greater width of the doors in the mess hall.¹⁹ The iron rails are painted black and are joined with aluminum fittings. A whole rail is missing from the northeast stoop, as are the rails on the stairs of the southwest stoop.

6. Chimneys: There were no heater rooms or coal furnaces in the 800 Series mess halls erected at Camp McCoy; hence no brick chimney, as in most other building types of the series.

There is a row of three sheet-metal exhaust chimneys rising from the hood above the range in the kitchen through the southeast slope of the roof. Each chimney is cylindrical and terminates in "rain hoods," inverted conical pieces. Horizontal metal sheets encircle the chimney pipe immediately below the rain hood. The weathered character of the metal suggests that the range chimneys are original, although the record version of Plan 800-806 depicts the narrower type of pipe and hood used elsewhere in the building for the Cannon stoves.

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Above the two platforms in the dining room where Cannon stoves originally stood are open pipes leading through the roof within a four-sided metal casing nailed to the roof. The cylindrical pipes re-emerge above the casing and terminate with a "rain hood" of the same type as the range chimneys.²⁰

The rectangular aluminum exhaust chimney above the hot-water heater in the kitchen appears to be of post-war construction.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: As already stated, the four doors of the exterior are wider than those in several other 800 Series building types at Fort McCoy. Two sizes of doors are found at Building T-635. Standard door type "BBB," measuring 7'-0" x 3'-0", was installed in the entry to the storeroom, southwest wall.²¹ Standard door type "P," measuring 8'-0" x 3'-2" was used in the three doorways leading into the dining room.²²

The door designs were all of the standard type used at Camp McCoy: four lights over three horizontal recessed panels. The standard simple doorway surround was used for all entries. Standard screen doors, composed of wooden frames and wire mesh screens, appear on the outside of the southeast entry and on the inside of the northeast and northwest doorways.

- b. Windows: There are two types of standard 800 window designs in Building T-635. Type "A," measuring 4'-6" x 3'-4-5/16", appears along the southwest section of the building, containing the kitchen and storeroom. Type "B," measuring 5'-2" x 3'-4-5/16", appears along the dining room section of the hall. The kitchen and storeroom windows are set higher in the walls and are shorter, possibly to allow for the heights of the scullery sink and kitchen appliances.²³

Both types of windows follow the same standard design: eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sash, and constructed of wood, with the simple wooden architrave. The original wood-frame screens survive for all the windows of Building T-635.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof of Building T-635 is low-pitched gable, running along a southwest-northeast axis. The roof is covered with red asphalt shingles consisting of the original layer of 1942 and a second layer applied in 1965.²⁴

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- b. Cornice, eaves: The boards composing the fascia are of the same size as used in the company storehouse and recreation buildings: approximately 14' long, 9" wide, and 7/8" thick. The soffit boards, of the same dimensions, are laid across the lower edges of the rafters, flush with the roof plane.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: There is no basement under Building T-635. The crawl space below the main floor is at grade.
- b. Main floor: There are three rooms in Building T-635: the dining room, kitchen, and storeroom. Entering the building through the southwest door, the first room is the storeroom, measuring 18'-0" x 25'-0".²⁵ Next is the kitchen, approximately 30' x 25'. Together, the storeroom and kitchen comprise the southwest half of building T-635. The principal room of the hall, occupying the northeast half, is the 52'-0" x 25'-0" dining room, the "mess hall" proper in the standard plans.

During World War II, the 152 enlisted men assigned to Building T-635 entered the dining room through the exterior doorways to the northwest, northeast, and southeast. They received their food at a serving counter between the mess section and the kitchen and ate at standard issue tables placed in rows parallel to the northeast side of the room. Through an opening in the counter was the kitchen, where the cooks and "K. P." staff prepared the food and cleaned up following each meal. They stored foodstuffs on shelves in the storeroom and placed perishable items in a large cooler in the southwest room. The kitchen staff entered and exited the mess hall through the rear, southwest doorway.

- c. Attic: There is a half-story attic above the main floor, containing roof structure trusses.
2. Stairways: There are no interior stairways.
3. Flooring: Originally, there were softwood floors in the dining rooms of all the mess halls erected at Camp McCoy, laid on foundations of construction paper and wooden sub-flooring. Following World War II, linoleum tile was installed in apparently all the dining rooms in the cantonment. At Building T-635, linoleum squares measuring 9" x 9" and colored green with cream streaking were laid over the softwood floor in 1958.²⁶

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There are two 5'-0" x 4'-6" concrete platforms in the mess section of Building T-635, intended as stands for the Cannon stoves that originally heated the room. One is located near the east corner of the dining area; the other near the northwest entrance.

In the kitchen and storeroom is a 3" thick concrete floor, laid on the same paper and sub-flooring as in the dining room and reinforced with wire mesh. Beneath the site of the cooking ranges on the southeast side of the kitchen is an additional 1-1/2" high concrete platform.²⁷

4. Wall and ceiling finishes:

- a. Dining room: In the dining room, there is a wainscoting of manufactured board, called "tempered pressed wood" in the standard plans. The 3'-8" high wainscoting is located above a 4-3/4" wooden baseboard. The pressed wood is laid over a fiber board, known initially as "insulation board," which continues approximately 6' above the wainscoting to the cornice of the room, composed of three over-lapping boards. The ceiling is composed also of insulation board. Pairs of exposed knee braces run between the upper walls into the attic between each bay.²⁸
- b. Kitchen: In the kitchen, there is a 6'-0" high wainscoting composed of pressed wood. As in the dining room, the wainscoting is laid over insulation board, which continues up to three cornice boards. The ceiling is also composed of insulation board. At the center of the southeast wall of the kitchen, providing a fireproof backing for the cooking ranges, is a 14-1/2' wide ceramic tile surface. The tiles are 2" thick and anchored to the exterior wall studs and corrugated metal ties.²⁹
- c. Storeroom: The storeroom walls are composed of standard-sized, 5-1/4" wide tongue and groove boards, nailed horizontally across the studs. On three of the walls are built-in shelves and counters, constructed of a mixture of 3-1/4" and 5-1/4" tongue and groove boards. The ceiling of the storeroom is composed of insulation board.
- d. Interior painting: Originally, none of the interior walls of the Camp McCoy mess halls were painted. After World War II paint was applied gradually to all the halls.

The interior of Building T-635 was painted in April 1951. The wainscoting of the dining room was painted an aqua green color, and the upper walls and ceiling yellow. The kitchen wainscoting received a dark green color, while the upper walls and ceiling became aqua green. The storeroom walls and ceiling are both green.

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5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is one interior door in Building T-635, located between the kitchen and the storeroom. The door is standard type "L-I," consisting of five horizontal recessed panels and measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8".³⁰
- b. Windows: The same, simple board architraves found in the barracks and company storehouse, administration, and recreation buildings enframe the interiors of mess hall windows, as illustrated in Building T-635.

6. Hardware: The original galvanized metal knobs and rim locks survive on two of the exterior doors to the dining room of the T-635 building. In the southeast entry door, a rectangular door plate and dead bolt lock appear to be postwar in age. The brass-plated hardware in the southwest entry door, like the door itself, is a recent replacement. The original hardware is found on the single interior door. The spring metal restraints on all of the double-hung windows also remain.

7. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Heating: In the dining room, the two Cannon, coal-fired stoves that provided heat originally have been removed. There were no stoves in the kitchen or storeroom; apparently the heat from the ranges and the hot water heater and tank were sufficient to keep the staff warm.

In the kitchen the original coal-fired hot-water heater was removed after World War II and replaced with a gas-powered, "A. O. Smith Commercial Water Heater," manufactured by Burkay. The hot-water tank installed in 1942 remains, standing in the south corner of the kitchen, covered with asbestos wrapping and painted aqua green. Both heater and tank have been disconnected.

There is no central heating system in Building T-635, or furnace room.

- b. Kitchen and storeroom appliances: The three coal-fired cooking ranges of 1942 have been removed. A single range fired by natural gas currently occupies one end of the range platform, against the southeast wall of the kitchen. The metal hood over the ranges may also be a replacement. Initially, exhaust fumes were sucked up through three holes in the 1942 hood by a fan located in the attic and thrust out the three exhaust chimneys still standing on the roof.³¹

In the storeroom are two refrigerating appliances. The original device is a wooden cooler of standard type KE-25-18, measuring 6'-0" square and fastened against the northeast wall, next to the door from the kitchen. The U. S. Government supplied the cooler to the general contractors, who

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installed it. The cooler operates on a 1/2 horse power motor.³² Near the southeast wall of the storeroom is a portable refrigerator, dating from ca 1940s, which probably was moved into the building after World War II.

- c. Ventilation: In the ceiling of the dining room are two rows of four standard vents, each screened. Hot air rises from the room, escapes through the vents to the attic, and thence through two wooden ventilators straddling the roof ridge. The ventilators resemble small cupolas, with pyramidal, shingled roofs and square bases. The air exits through louvered panels on the four sides. Similarly, rectangular ventilation panels in the gables of the two end walls of the hall allow the escape of hot air.³³
 - d. Lighting: The original metal-shade light fixtures of the dining room survive, screwed onto porcelain sockets attached to the ceiling. In the kitchen two of the same type shade survive near the cooking range; the other light fixtures in the room have been removed. In the storeroom, the porcelain lighting socket on the southeast side remains; the other fixture has been taken out.³⁴
 - e. Plumbing: The cast-iron plumbing of the kitchen has been dismantled, beneath the former locations of the two scullery sinks and around hot-water heater and tank.
8. Original furnishings: The wooden tables and benches of the dining room have been removed. Some of the kitchen equipment-furniture remains, all of it of standard government issue. An 8'-0" x 3'-0" "work" (preparation) table, "KE-16," stands at the center of the room. Incorporated in the partition wall between the dining room and kitchen is the serving counter, constructed of standard-sized studs and covered with a pressed board top. The counter is 2'-6" wide and 3'-4" tall. Beneath the top on one side are wooden shelves for holding serving dishes; on the other is a compartment covered with sheet metal.

Also in the kitchen are two detached "scullery sinks," Type KE-14 and KE-15-4, made of galvanized steel and both consisting of double sinks and side counters. The original locations of the sinks, where pots, pans, and dishes were washed, are outlined on the southwest and northwest walls by unpainted sections of wainscoting.³⁵

In the north corner of the dining room is a 6'-0" high wooden pie safe, which is not shown on any of the record drawings for Building T-635. The safe may easily pre-date World War II, and the date of its placement in this mess hall is unknown.

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D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Building T-635 and the street layout and other buildings of Block 6 are arranged in a gridiron pattern running on a southwest to northeast axis.³⁶ The longitudinal elevations of T-635 run parallel to East N Street, some 200' to the southeast; the transverse, or end, elevations run parallel to East 12th Avenue, approximately 210' to the southwest. The site of Building T-635 is relatively level.

About 130' to the east of T-635 is a group of four 228-man mess halls, located on either side of N Street. Approximately the same distance to the south is the first of three 74-man barracks located on the northwest side of N Street. It is unclear whether Building T-635, which was built after the other mess halls in Block 6, to accommodate additional men, served a single unit, such as a platoon from one of the three barracks, or merely the "over-flow" from the four main mess halls at the center of N Street.

Between the T-635 mess hall and 12th Avenue are two company storehouse-administration-and-recreation buildings, one of the SA-2/RB-4 type and the other of the smaller, SA-2/RB-2 version. Adjacent to the south corner of Building T-635 is a badly deteriorated concrete coal pad and along the southwest is a reinforced concrete loading platform, at grade.

2. Historic landscape design: In 1942 a system of graded walks were laid out on all four sides of Building T-635. A perimeter walk can still be discerned running parallel to the northwest and northeast elevations, about 25' from the building. The perimeter path to the northeast continues to the southeast and intersects with a walk that runs behind the barracks and 228-man mess halls on the southwest side of N Street. Secondary walks lead from the three entries to the dining room in T-635 to the perimeter walk and the main path to the southeast. All the walks originally were composed of bituminous asphalt and gravel; little of either material remains today.

A dirt and gravel drive leads from Building T-635 to 12th Avenue.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- A. Architectural Drawings: The following Standard War Department drawings were devised for use in constructing Building T-635 and the other three 152-man mess halls erected at Camp McCoy in the fall of 1942: 800-805, 800-806, and 800-807. These drawings are all dated January 5, 1942. In addition, the following general standard drawings in the 800 Series were used: 800-100, 800-101, 800-156,³⁷ 800-174, 800-175, 800-176, 800-176, 800-177, 800-186, 800-187, 800-190, 800-194, and 800-199 (see Bibliography for full citation of each drawing). The general plans range in date from May 1941 to April 1942.

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Under Lt. Col. E. C. Hayden, the Area Engineer who supervised construction of Camp McCoy, hundreds of detailed plans were prepared locally to guide the construction of roads, sewerage, utilities, and preparation of the building sites. These Area Engineer drawings were given 6150 Series numbers and included such plans as that of May 13, 1942, depicting the construction areas and names of contractors (cited above). The 6150 plans are stored in the north map file of the "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145, and in several map files of Building 2111.

In September 1942, Hayden directed that record copies be made of the standard drawings and supplemental plans used to build the buildings at Camp McCoy. Notations of deviations from the original designs and specifications were indicated in red on the record versions, which after World War II were retained in an "As Built" file by the Post Engineer. Notations of changes were also made on some of the Vandyke master copies of the standard drawings and the words "RECORD DRAWING OF WORK AS BUILT" were stamped above the legends.

In November 1942, Hayden's successor as Area Engineer, Major Fred L. Starbuck, ordered the preparation of record drawings depicting the finished layout of each block in the cantonment plan. The plan pertaining to Block 6, No. 6150-3-GL, is stored with other November drawings in Drawer 15 of the "Meatlocker."

Field notes were made prior to writing the present report, as a check on the information contained in the 1941-42 plans. The principal deviation noticed from the drawings was in the substitution of poured concrete stoops for wooden entry porches, which was also done with all other mobilization buildings erected at Camp McCoy.

High-quality, photographic negatives and prints of the above drawings accompany this report. The original Vandyke master copies and blueline prints are located in the 800 Series map files in the "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145, Fort McCoy. The record drawings prepared for the Post Engineer are found in portfolios kept in the "As Built" files of the Directorate of Engineering, Building 2111.

- B. Early Views: No construction photographs of Building T-635 could be found in the records of the Directorate of Engineering at Fort McCoy. As already noted, a few such photos of the exterior and interior of a typical mess hall were published in area newspapers in 1942.
- C. Bibliography:
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources:
 - a. Standard War Department Drawings
 - i. War Department. Chief of the Office of Engineers. "Mobilization Buildings. Mess Halls. Type M-112, 152, 172, 228, & 248. Plans & Schedules," Plan No. 800-805, January 5, 1942.

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- ii. _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. Mess Halls. Type M-112, 152, 172, 228 & 248. Elevations, Sections & Detail of Kitchen," Plan 800-806, January 5, 1942.
- iii. _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. Mess Halls. Type M-112, 152, 172, 228 & 248. Heating, Plumbing & Electrical," Plan No. 800-807, January 5, 1942.
- iv. _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. 25'-0" Wide Building Clear Span One Story. Architectural Typical Plan, Elevations, & Sections," Plan No. 800-100, May 3, 1941.
- v. [Standard War Department Plan No. 800-101, "25'-0" Wide Building Clear Span One Story. Structural." No copy could be found at Fort McCoy]
- vi. [Standard War Department Plan No. 800-156, "Misc. Details," No copy could be found at Fort McCoy]
- vii. Construction Division. Office of the Quartermaster General. "Mobilization Buildings. Miscellaneous Details. Mess Hall," Plan No. 800-174, August 9, 1941.
- viii. _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. Miscellaneous Details. Mess Hall," Plan No. 800-175, August 9, 1941.
- ix. _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. Miscellaneous Details. Mess Hall," Plan No. 800-176, August 9, 1941.
- x. _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. Miscellaneous Details. Mess Hall," Plan No. 800-177, August 9, 1941.
- xi. War Department. Office of the Chief of Engineers - Construction Division. Washington, D. C. "Mobilization Buildings. Miscellaneous Details. Interior & Exterior Details," Drawing No. 800-186, April 28, 1942.
- xii. _____ . _____ . _____ . "Mobilization Buildings. Miscellaneous Details. Interior & Exterior Details," Drawing No. 800-187, April 29, 1942.

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- xiii. Construction Division. Office of the Quartermaster General. "Mobilization Buildings. Standard Details. Smoke Pipe & Flue Details," Plan No. 800-190, May 12, 1941.
 - xiv. _____. _____. "Mobilization Buildings. Standard Plumbing Details," Plan No. 800-194, May 12, 1941.
 - xv. _____. _____. "Mobilization Building. Standard Electrical Details," Plan No. 800-199, May 12, 1941.
- b. Drawings Produced at Camp McCoy
- i. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project--General Layout Plan [with boundaries of seven construction areas and names of contractors drawn in], Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942 [original blueline print on north map file, "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145]
 - ii. _____. "Camp McCoy Project. Block Layout Plan Showing Buildings, Roads, Parking Areas, Service Drives, Walks & Coal Pads. Blk. 5 and 6," Plan No. 6150-3-GL, November 24, 1942 (revised to April 4, 1944) [original linen drawing in Drawer 15, map file, "Meatlocker"]
- c. Record Drawing versions of standard plans (in "As Built" Envelope 72, Building 2111)
- Standard Plans 800-805, 800-806, and 800-807, labeled "M-152--Additional Bldg's. in Areas E & F." Notations in red are dated November 18, 1942.
- d. Other original records at Fort McCoy
- "Real Property Record. Building and Structures. Building T-635," July 13, 1943. In card file, "Meatlocker."

2. Secondary and published sources:

- a. Books and manuscripts:

Fine, Lenore and Jesse A. Remington. *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States* [volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Service*]. Washington, D. C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, 1972.

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Post Engineer Office, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Historical Data" [typescript copy of original ditto version], January 15, 1946.³⁸

Wasch, Diane and Perry Bush. "The Historical Context of World War Mobilization Construction" Unpublished paper. Washington, D.C.: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, 1988.

b. Newspaper articles (in chronological order):

"To Condemn 9600 Acres for McCoy; Petition to Be Filed Monday," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p. 1.

"Bids on McCoy Work Started February 14," *Sparta Herald*, February 16, 1942, p. 1.

"Work Started on McCoy Building," *Monroe County Democrat*, February 19, 1942, p. 1.

"Work at McCoy Scheduled to Start About March 20; Bids to Close March 7th," *Monroe County Democrat*, February 26, 1942, p. 1.

"Closing Date for McCoy Bids Nears," *Sparta Herald*, March 16, 1942, p. 1.

"More Contracts Being Let at McCoy Cantonment," *Monroe County Democrat*, March 26, 1942, p. 1.

"More Wisconsin Concerns Get Contracts At McCoy," *Monroe County Democrat*, April 2, 1942, p. 1.

"Construction at Camp McCoy Getting Along; The Place Is Seething with Activity," *Monroe County Democrat*, April 16, 1942, p. 1.

"Government Buys Lumber for Army Cantonment," *Monroe County Democrat*, April 23, 1942, p. 1.

"Where Soldiers Will Live at New McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, August 31, 1942, p. 1.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

1. Documentary: Information on the Madsen, Schumacher, Watson, and Associates contracting firm is probably available in St. Paul, Minnesota, research libraries. In addition, more information may be available in the National Archives and other

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archives in the Washington, D. C. area, regarding George E. Bergstrom and the other designers who produced the 800-Series of standard drawings.

2. Oral History: Interviews could be conducted with several people locally who worked on the construction of Camp McCoy. In particular, a Mr. Schroeder of the Schroeder contracting firm of Sparta worked for one of the contractors during 1942. Also, it would be worthwhile to attempt to locate Everett C. Hayden, the Area Engineer who supervised the construction of Camp McCoy or his assistant, David C. Lamoreaux. Both men would probably be in their early eighties, if still living, and both reached the rank of at least Lieutenant Colonel in the Corps of Engineers.³⁹

E. Supplemental Material:

1. Historical Photographs: A photocopy is included of Signal Corps construction photographs of the interior and exterior of a typical mess hall that appeared in the *Sparta Herald* at the end of August 1942.
2. Original drawings and plans: Photographic negatives and prints or high-contrast blueline prints of all plans listed in the Bibliography.

Prepared by: James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor
Fort McCoy Project
September 1988

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Fort McCoy was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service, Robert J. Kapsch, chief, during the summer of 1988. The project was sponsored by the United States Army, Environmental Office, Colonel Ronald G. Kelsey, chief, with the assistance of Constance W. Ramirez, Historic Preservation Officer for the U.S. Army. Local sponsorship was provided at Fort McCoy by the base Commander, Colonel Sorensen, and by Al Balliett and Marvin Westenburg of the Environmental Division; John Calvert, Engineering Planning and Services Division; and Robert Wells, Real Property. The project was managed through the HABS/HAER WASO office by John A. Burns, architect, and project leader and Catherine Crawford, HABS historian. The documentation was undertaken at the HABS/HAER field office at Fort McCoy by James Glass, HABS/HAER, and by Keith Landreth, U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (USACERL), Champagne, Illinois. Large-format photography was done by Martin Stupich.

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NOTES:

1. See Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, "Camp McCoy Project. Block Layout Plan - Showing - Service Drives, Walks, Coal Pads, Buildings, Roads, & Parking Areas. Blk. 5 and 6," Plan No. 6150-3-GL, November 24, 1942 (revised to April 4, 1944).
2. Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, "Mobilization Buildings. Mess Halls. Type - M-112, 152, 172, 228 & 248. Plans & Schedules," Plan No. 800-805, January 5, 1942 (record drawing version, filed in "As Built" envelope 72, Building 2111, Fort McCoy); "Real Property Record. Buildings and Structures--Post Building No. 635," card in card file drawers, "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145, Fort McCoy.
3. See notation in the border of the record drawing version of Plan 800-805, "As Built" envelope 72. The bulk of the 172 mess halls built in the triangular plan area were built using Plans 800-847, 849, or 851, all prepared by Bergstrom's staff in the spring of 1941. See Post Engineer Office, Camp McCoy, "Historical Data" [typescript copy of ditto original], p. 10 (copy of both versions in box marked "Historical Engineering Records," in "Meatlocker."
4. See Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. [volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services*] (Washington, D. C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, 1972), pp. 347-51; 524, and Diane Wasch and Perry Busch, [draft history of temporary World War II Army buildings] (Washington, D. C.: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, 1988), pp. 42-46. See also standard Plan 800-805.
5. "To Condemn 9600 Acres For McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p. 1, c. 8.
6. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, "Camp McCoy Project--General Layout Plan [with boundaries of seven construction areas and names of contractors drawn in], Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942 (original blue-line print on map file, "Meatlocker"); "Bids on McCoy Work Started February 14," *Sparta Herald*, February 16, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "Work at McCoy Scheduled to Start About March 20," *Monroe County Democrat*, February 26, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "Closing Date for McCoy Bids Nears," *Sparta Herald*, March 16, 1942, p. 1, c. 7; "More Contracts Let at McCoy Cantonment," *Monroe County Democrat*, March 26, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "Construction at Camp McCoy Getting Along," *Monroe County Democrat*, April 16, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; and "Government Buys Lumber for Army Cantonment," *Monroe County Democrat*, April 23, 1942, p. 1, c. 3.
7. No copies of Standard Plans 800-101 and 800-156 could be found in the records of the Directorate of Engineering at Fort McCoy.
8. "Real Property Record . . . Building 635."
9. "Real Property Record . . . Building 635."
10. Wasch and Busch, pp. 42; 47.
11. Post Engineer Office, "Historical Data," typescript copy of original report, pp. 6-7; handwritten notations on ditto original report, p. 18.
12. "Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office (?), Fort McCoy, n. d., c. 1985, p. 6; Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, "McCoy's History, 1947-Present," *Triad*, 3, No. 11 (May 29, 1986), p. 5.

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13. See standard Plan 800-805, section 4.

14. Post Engineer Office, p. 10.

15. The sheathing may be composed of 7 1/8-inch tongue and groove boards, as in Building 801, but none was exposed for observation.

16. See Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, "Mobilization Buildings. 25'-0" Wide Building Clear Span One Story. Architectural Typical Plan," Plan No. 800-100, May 3, 1941 (Vandyke master copy in 800 Series map files, "Meatlocker."

17. Record drawing versions of standard Plan 800-805 and of War Department. Office of the Chief of Engineers. "Mobilization Buildings. Mess Halls. Type M-112, 152, 172, 228 & 248. Elevations, Sections, & Detail of Kitchen," Plan No. 800-806, January 5, 1942.

18. See the photographic prints of the record drawing versions of standard Plans 800-805 (floor plans) and 800-806 (elevations), included in the supplemental material section of this report.

19. See the discussion of doorways and doors, below.

20. Vandyke master copies of Standard War Department Plans 800-189 and 800-196, prints of which are included in the Supplemental Materials Section of this report.

21. As noted in the "Alterations and Additions" section, the southwest door has been replaced.

22. See the illustrations of the types of doors used in 800 Series mess halls in Standard War Department Plan No. 800-175, a print of which is included in the Supplemental Material Section.

23. See the illustrations of standard window types used in mess halls in Standard War Department Plan No. 800-174, a print of which is included in the Supplemental Material Section.

24. "Real Property Record . . . Building 635."

25. See Standard War Department Plan 800-805, reproduced in the Supplemental Material Section.

26. "Real Property Record . . . Building 635."

27. See Standard Plans 800-805 and 800-806.

28. See standard Plan 800-177, in Supplemental Materials Section.

29. See record drawing version of standard Plan 800-806.

30. See standard Plans 800-175 and 800-805.

31. See standard Plan 800-806.

32. Ibid.

33. Ibid.

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34. See standard Plan 800-199.
35. See standard Plans 800-177 and 800-806.
36. Area Engineer Plan 6150-3-GL is reproduced in the Supplemental Material Section.
37. No copies of either Plan 800-101 or Plan 800-156 could be found in the records of the Directorate of Engineering at Fort McCoy.
38. The ditto original and typescript copy are in a box marked, "Historical Engineering Records," in the "Meatlocker," Building 2145.
39. An article providing a biographical sketch of Hayden appeared in the *Real McCoy*, the camp newspaper, in the fall of 1942: "The 'Daddy' of Camp McCoy to New Fields," November 1942, p. 8, c. 1. A similar article about Lamoreaux appeared in the *Real McCoy* or other local newspaper, probably during the 1950s. An undated clipping of the article, entitled "Officer Who Helped Build McCoy in '42 Recalls Post's Early Construction Days," was found in the Public Affairs Office archive, Fort McCoy. Also see James A. Glass, "History of the Planning and Construction of Camp McCoy, 1940 to 1946" (Washington, D. C.: Historic American Buildings Survey, 1988).